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MINUTES

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD,

OF

Maryland and Virginia;

CONVENED AT CUMBERLAND, MD.

ON THE 16th, 17th, 18th OF OCTOBER, 1831.

Baltimore:
PRINTED BY LUCAS AND DEAVER,
19 *South Calvert street.*
1831.

8

PROCEEDINGS.

CUMBERLAND, October 17, 1831.

Pursuant to adjournment, the brethren convened on Lord's day morning, in the Lutheran Church, when the pastoral address was delivered to a large and attentive congregation by the President, Rev. D. F. SCHAEFFER, from 2 *Tim.* iv. 5.

In the afternoon, Br. Hoshour delivered a sacramental discourse from *Luke* xxi. 19; after which, the Lord's Supper was administered to many devout communicants. In the evening the exercises consisted of exhortations, singing and prayer. Addresses were delivered by Brs. Morris, Hoffman and Eichelberger.

Immediately after the morning service, a German discourse was preached by Br. Albert, from *Rom.* ii. 4. Br. J. Reck preached in the Methodist Church, from *Luke* vi. 19.

On Saturday evening previous, Br. Wachter preached from *Col.* iii. 11.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SYNOD.

Monday, October 17, 1831.

The clerical and lay members having assembled in the church, the Synod was organized by singing a hymn, and prayer by the President.

The roll being called, the following brethren answered to their names:

Rev. D. F. Schaeffer,	- - -	*Fredericktown, Md.*
" F. Haas,	- - - - -	*Preston Co. Va.*
" M. Wachter,	- - - -	*Fredericktown, Md.*
" J. Winter,	- - - - -	*Williamsport, Md.*
" J. Medtart,	- - - -	*Martinsburg, Va.*
" J. N. Hoffman,	- - - -	*Taneytown, Md.*
" S. K. Hoshour,	- - - -	*Hagerstown, Md.*
" J. G. Morris,	- - - -	*Baltimore.*
" J. Albert,	- - - -	*Manchester, Md.*
" J. Reck,	- - - - -	*Smithstown, Md.*
" L. Eichelberger,	- - -	*Winchester, Va.*
" H. Haverstick,	- - - -	*Cumberland, Md.*

LAY DELEGATES.

Mr. Lewis Medtart,	- - - -	*Fredericktown, Md.*
" David Spessert,	- - - -	*Preston Co. Va.*
" L. Bell,	- - - - -	*Williamsport, Md.*
" G. Shryock,	- - - -	*Hagerstown, Md.*
" M. Rizer, Jr.	- - - -	*Cumberland, Md.*
" C. Flory,	- - - - -	*Smithsburg.*
" J. Swartz,	- - - - -	*Martinsburg.*

The following Brethren were absent:

Rev. Dr. Kurtz,	- - - -	*Baltimore.*
" A. Reck,	- - - - -	*Middletown, Md.*
" B. Kurtz,		
" N. B. Little,		
" H. L. Bager.		
" L. Winder,	- - - -	*Washington Co.*

The President now delivered the following report, agreeably to the constitution of the Synod:

Beloved Brethren in the Lord Jesus!

Preserved and spared through the goodness of God, to assemble again in Synod, for the transaction of business relative to our beloved Church, let us be grateful and humbly pray, that the Holy Ghost may direct us in all our deliberations.

Agreeably to the requisition of our Constitution, I beg leave to report, and recommend as follows:

The Rev. L. Winder, formerly a minister of the United Brethren Church, and of good standing, being convinced of the excellency and purity of our doctrine and discipline, applied to me for admission into our Synod. As he was highly recommended by a number of our brethren, and gave me satisfactory evidence of piety, and of sufficient talents to be useful, he was accordingly admitted. The Synod will now have an opportunity to confirm or annul my act.

The Rev. N. B. Little was appointed, by a resolution of the last Synod, to missionate for three months, and requested to direct his attention particularly to Cincinnati, Ohio. Though this measure was deemed inexpedient by me, yet it became my duty to furnish him with credentials and instructions. After travelling two months, he returned and received an order for the usual compensation. He informs me that he organized several churches, among which he intends to settle. His journal I have not seen, but hope it will be presented by him to this Synod.

Conference meetings have been frequently held, in the different districts of this Synod, and so far as I have information, they were profitable to our people and ministers. Those that I attended were interesting. No doubt documents will be produced to prove their utility. But great care is recommended, lest innovations, not warranted by the Bible, intrude themselves upon us. We ought to disregard all methods which are not strictly in accordance with the spirit of the gospel.

The Rev. Charles F. Schaeffer, having accepted a call from our Church in Carlisle, Pa., requested his dismissal from this Synod agreeably to the constitution, which was accordingly granted. I learn that he is useful in his new field of labor.

From the Lutheran Observer, a new periodical published in Baltimore, I learn that the Rev. B. Kurtz, resigned

the church at Hagerstown, and removed to Chambersburg. And, through the same source, I am informed that the Rev. Mr. Eyster has removed to Danville, N. Y. I have not any official information to communicate as to the state of the churches now vacant. The Synod should, however, receive during its sessions, some communications from both, or at all events, make some provision that they may not continue vacant.

The Rev. F. Ruth requested permission to visit our destitute brethren in Ohio, and to settle himself among them. He travels on his own expense, and I doubt not will give a good account of himself. I cheerfully granted him suitable credentials and recommendations. The Rev. H. L. Baugher, by a letter dated September 27, 1831, resigns his membership, and claims an honorable and christian transfer to the West Pennsylvania Synod. I have not yet given him his discharge, as I supposed it could not reach him before he departed from Gettysburg to meet the West Pennsylvania Synod. As he has been a licentiate only, the non-renewal of his license by the Synod, as he now resides within the jurisdiction of the West Pennsylvania Synod, will be, I imagine, sufficient.

A number of our brethren in Virginia, ardently devoted to our beloved church, and consequently to the General Synod, discovering that in the number of those who were to compose the Synod of Virginia, an opposition existed to the General Synod, requested of me to re-admit them into this Synod, which I did very cheerfully. I deem it the duty of this Synod to inquire into this matter.

The *Evangelical Lutheran Intelligencer*, the first periodical that was issued in the English language by our church in the United States, has been discontinued for want of support, notwithstanding the pledges that had been given to the editor. As a considerable debt exists, it will be one of the first duties of this Synod to devise ways and means to liquidate it. A full and complete exhibit of the whole concern accompanies this report. I earnestly enjoin it upon

the Synod to act upon this subject as early as possible, being convinced that delay may produce effects we would all regret.

That a church derives much benefit from periodicals properly conducted, the good effects of the Intelligencer must prove. Hence I am happy that one still exists, viz: the *Lutheran Observer*. The work is well executed, and may carry on the operations commenced by the Intelligencer. If the brethren do justice to the Intelligencer and its late editor, and see their error in having been too indifferent as to the existence of the work, then shall I have the pleasing anticipation that the blessing of God will rest upon the Lutheran Observer.

It is well known that Popery is now making every exertion in our country, to gain the ascendancy over the Protestant Church. Unles Popery is exhibted in its true form to the people, it will succeed to an alarming degree. There is now, so far as my knowledge extends, no periodical that speaks plainly and boldly upon the subject, excepting the "*Protestant*," published in the city of New York. In my opinion, every true Protestant should support the work, and I earnestly recommend it to the patronage of my brethren.

Finally, the affairs of our church generally are in a prosperous state. Vital religion is spreading, and the world begins to see that our church has but little of human inventions in its bosom—that its doctrine and discipline are strictly scriptural, and with prudence and zeal, I know of no religious denomination that will increase more.

But there is still great cause for us to pray ardently for Zion—to encourage our Sunday Schools, catechetical instruction of the children by the minister, and well directed prayer meetings. I cannot omit recommending the publication of our devotional and doctrinal books in the English language; for to them, under the blessing of God, we may look for an increase of piety among our people, and an addition to our church. The book entitled "True Chris-

tianity," and many others, are superior to any I have ever seen, emanating from other churches. Two books have already been published, viz: "The Catechumen's and Communicant's Companion,"—and "A Collection of Texts of Scripture," &c. &c., which I most earnestly recommend to the brethren, as books which should be in the possession of every member of our church. Convinced of the advantages of Lutheranism over many others, whom I however love, as parts of the army of our Lord, I recommend to my brethren, union, zeal, ardent prayer, and to strive with all their might to promote the cause of Jesus Christ. Then will our transactions promote the welfare of our beloved church, and redound to the glory of God, which is the ardent prayer of your brother in Christ, who is the Head of the Church.

DAVID F. SCHAEFFER,
President of the Synod of Maryland and Virginia.

The minutes of the last session were now read.

The election for officers took place, and upon counting the votes, it appeared that the following gentlemen were chosen:

Rev. D. F. Schaeffer,	- - -	*President.*
Rev. J. Medtart,	- - -	*Secretary.*
Rev. M. Wachter,	- - -	*Treasurer.*

On motion *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to examine the report of the President.

A letter from Br. A. Reck was read, when it was *Resolved*, That the excuse for the absence of Brother Reck be sustained.

A letter from Br. B. Kurtz was read, stating the reasons of his absence, when it was *Resolved*, that his excuses be sustained.

A letter was read, signed by several members of the Lutheran Church, in Preston County, Va. praying for the services of a minister.

Resolved, That Br. Haas take charge of the congregation, and preach for them as often as possible.

The brethren were invited to present their parochial reports.

Congregations.	*Baptised.*	*Confirmed.*	*Comm.*	*Deaths.*	*Schools.*
Rev. Dr. Kurtz,	no report.				
2. Rev. D. F. Schaeffer,	231	59	651	68	2
3. " F. Haas,	63	33	190	9	2
5. " A. Reck,	no report.				
2. " B. Kurtz,	73	46	464	24	2
6. " M. Wachter,	109	26	475	13	2
4. " J. Winter,	73	59	385	11	2
2. " J. Medtart,	76	61	190	15	2
4. " J. N. Hoffman,	82		425	14	4
" S. K. Hoshour,	5			4	
1. " J. G. Morris,	19	5	93	12	1
7. " J. Albert,	163	105	743	32	
3. " L. Eichelberger,	46	16	140	15	1
5. " H. Haverstick,	104	10	181	29	2
5. " J. Reck,	5	94	439	25	5

The following sums were contributed to the Synodical Treasury, by

L. Medtart,	$10 00	Rev. J. Albert,	$15 00
Rev. M. Wachter,	11 69	" J. Reck,	8 00
L. Bell,	5 00	" L. Eichelberger,	9 16
Rev. J. Medtart,	15 00	" H. Haverstick,	5 00
" J. N. Hoffman,	11 00		

Resolved, That the Congregation at Boonsborough be supplied during the ensuing winter with occasional preaching, and that the following brethren be appointed to officiate there alternately, viz: Rev. D. F. Schaeffer, Rev. M. Wachter, Rev. A. Reck, J. Reck, Rev. S. K. Hoshour.

Resolved, That Br. Hoshour occasionally visit the congregation at Funkstown.

Resolved, That the ministers of this Synod, visit as often as convenient, any vacant congregations within the limits of their different districts.

The Synod adjourned—Prayer by Br. Eichelberger.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 2 o'clock.

Prayer by Br. Haas.

Rev. W. Yeager, from West Pennsylvania Synod, was introduced.

Resolved, That the business respecting Rev. Mr. Winder be referred to the Ministerium.

Resolved, That Rev. Mr. Little be allowed two months compensation for his services as missionary.

Rev. Mr. Hoffman and L. Medtart were appointed to examine the treasurer's accounts.

Resolved, That the President of the Synod be directed to write to the Rev. Mr. Little, expressing the regret of this body at his neglect in not furnishing the Synod with an account of his missionary labors, and direct such to be laid before the next Synod.

Resolved, That the Synod feels itself bound to relieve the editor of the Intelligencer from the debt now resting upon him.

The committee appointed to examine the treasurer's accounts, reported that they had attended to the duty assigned them.

Receipts during the past year, - - -	$319 89
Expenditures, - - - - - - -	66 00
Balance, - - - - - -	$253 89

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to devise some plan to collect the outstanding debts of the Intelligencer—Messrs. Eichelberger, Albert, Hoshour, L. Medtart and L. Bell, were appointed.

Resolved, That an honorable dismissal from this Synod be given to the Rev. H. L. Bager, who has moved within the jurisdiction of the West Pennsylvania Synod.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the brethren to continue the Conferences as heretofore held.

Resolved, That the Synod recommend the translation and publication of "*Arndt's Wahres Christenthum*," to the General Synod.

Resolved, That in addition to the delegates elected last year, one clerical delegate, and two lay delegates as alternates, be sent to represent this body in the General Synod. Rev. John N. Hoffman, and L. Medtart, and H. Nixdorf, were elected.

Resolved, That the work entitled "*The Catechumen's and Communicant's Companion*," published in Baltimore, be warmly recommended to the members of this Synod, for circulation, as being well calculated to be useful in our church.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Synod be given to the Rev. Brother who prepared the work.

Resolved, That a Director of the Seminary Board be elected—Rev. J. G. Morris was elected for five years.

The Synod adjourned.

This evening, the anniversary meeting of the Education Society, was held. For report and proceedings, see Lutheran Observer, No. 7, 1831.

TUESDAY MORNING, 8 o'clock.

The Rev. Messrs. Heyer and Crigler, from the West Pennsylvania Synod were introduced.

The committee to whom was referred the business respecting the Intelligencer, reported as follows:

The committee to whom was referred the business respecting the Evangelical Lutheran Intelligencer, report as follows: That as considerable difficulty may present itself in the final settlement and arrangement of the concerns of this paper, by those unacquainted with the work, and the only successful plan by which it can be executed, so as to save the Synod from the loss which would thereby be sustained, and to secure the amount justly due on its subscriptions—Therefore,

Resolved, 1. That the whole business of the Intelligencer be committed to a committee of three, the late editor, L. Medtart, and M. Wachter, as special agents for this Sy-

nod, to provide, by collecting agents, and as in their wisdom they may devise, for securing and collecting all subscriptions yet due for this work.

2. That it be a duty incumbent upon the ministers of this Synod, to undertake the collection of all subscriptions due within their different districts.

3. That the ministers of our church generally throughout the United States, where subscriptions are yet back, be solicited by letter from the agent to do the same.

4. That the Treasurer loan the funds at present in his hands, to the payment of the debt remaining on the Intelligencer—and that the President, and Treasurer, provide for immediately liquidating the whole debt, in any way they may deem most expedient for the credit of this Synod, and that the succeeding officers of the Synod are bound to provide for the same till fully settled, and that they fully report at each meeting of Synod what has been done in this settlement.

5. That the Synod sanction the loan of its funds made by the editor, when treasurer of this body, and that he have credit on the treasurer's books, as the then treasurer, for the same.

6. That any balance, remaining over and above the whole amount of debt on the Intelligencer, now advanced by the Synod, till the collections be made, be given the agent as a small, but wholly inadequate remuneration for his long gratuitous labors in conducting the work.

7. That the agent make such disposition of the copies on hand as he may deem most expedient.

8. That the unanimous thanks of this Synod, as well as the whole Lutheran Church, are due to the late editor, as the only worthy compensation they can make him for his long, arduous, devoted, and withal, gratuitous labors in conducting, from its origin to its termination, a periodical, which, during five successive years, has been instrumental in doing much good in Zion, and for Christ's cause in our own Church in particular.

The report was adopted.

The late editor declares to this Synod, that whatever surplus may remain after the debt is paid, he for himself and his children, hereby relinquishes to this Synod, to be appropriated to any purposes the Synod may direct.

Resolved, That the President be appointed delegate from this body to West Pennsylvania Synod.

The Synod went into an election for the place and time of holding the next meeting, when it was decided to meet in Baltimore on the third Sunday of October, 1832.

Resolved, That five hundred copies of these minutes be printed—that thirty copies be sent to West Pennsylvania Synod—thirty to East Pennsylvania Synod—fifteen to South Carolina Synod—fifteen to North Carolina Synod—fifteen to Hartwick Synod of New York—fifteen to New York Synod—and twenty-five to Ohio Synod.

Resolved, That twelve copies of these minutes be sent to each minister of this Synod.

Resolved, That the Synod adjourn to meet in Baltimore, on the third Sunday of October, 1832.

Prayer by the President.

MINISTERIUM.

2 o'clock, P. M.

Prayer by Br. J. Reck.

Mr. Emanuel Greenwald presented himself as a candidate for licensure. After he was examined before the whole Ministerium, it was

Resolved, That Mr. Greenwald be received as a licentiate.

A letter from Rev. N. B. Little, from Circleville, Ohio, was read.

A letter from Rev. Mr. Winder, in which he applies for a renewal of his license, was read.

Resolved, That Br. Winder's license be renewed, upon condition that he adhere rigidly to our long established cus-

toms, and that the President and Br. A. Reck affectionately advise him to conform, in future, more closely to our ecclesiastical usages.

Resolved, That if he complies with the above resolution, he be invited to take charge of the congregations in and about Liberty.

Resolved, That Brs. Eichelberger and Haverstick be ordained this evening.

Resolved, That the Ministerium adjourn.

The brethren united in prayer on bended knee, commending their Churches and themselves to the continued protection of Almighty God.

(Attest) JACOB MEDTART, *Secretary*.

This evening, after the ordination sermon, which was preached by the Rev. J. G. Morris, from 2 *Cor*. ii, 16, Brs. Eichelberger and Haverstick were solemnly ordained by the "laying on of the hands of the Presbytery." The President propounded the questions—Rev. Mr. Heyer, President of West Pennsylvania Synod, delivered the charge—Brs. Morris, Medtart and Wachter, assisted in the other ceremonies. After the ordination, Mr. E. Greenwald was solemnly inducted into the ministerial office, according to the form prescribed by the Liturgy.

men; its pretensions will be considered too high; its communions with the Deity too near; its claims to extraordinary unwritten revelations of the will of God, too presumptuous. But let every man suspend his judgment until he has seen its *expose;* that is all the patron asks.

In our next we will insert a translation of part of the communication we have received, relating to the history of the Count, and then our readers may judge for themselves.

[Translated from the Lutheran German Magazine.]

A desire has often been expressed that a comprehensive history of the Lutheran church in America might be prepared for publication, since there was no doubt, that such a work would be generally patronized by Lutherans in this country. The Professors of our seminary have resolved to prepare such a history in both languages, and are industriously engaged in gathering materials. They would be thankful to our ministers who serve our oldest or most distinguished churches to answer the following questions as soon as possible.

1. When was the church you serve, founded?
2. Who served the church from its foundation until your time?
3. What general interesting circumstances have occurred in the church from its organization?
4. Can you furnish us with short sketches of the lives of your predecessors?

Brethren are invited to comply with these requests, and to address their communications to the Editors Ev. Magazine, Gettysburg, Pa.

[The following communication was received after our Original Department was *made up*, but as it relates to an important subject, we insert it here. We have long desired to know something definite respecting the bequest of Frey. Where is the fault of its mismanagement? At whose door lies the heinous sin of robbing the church of her testamentary rights? Let the subject be examined, and the sacrilege, if there be any, fully exposed. Let the negligence of executors, if they were guilty of any, be held up to the scorn of mankind. Enquirer is perhaps the oldest minister of our church now living, and we hope his queries will lead to a full exposition of this hitherto mystified subject.—*Ed. Obs.*]

Mr. Editor,—In the Observer of October 6th, I learned that a certain Mr. Frey, has bequeathed his plantation and money for the establishment of an Orphan house for children of poor Lutheran parents, in Pennsylvania. You tell us that the East Pennsylvania Synod has resolved to petition the Legislature on the subject,—can this be necessary? Has not Mr. Frey made a will, and appointed one or two executors, and a trustee for the land? Where are they or their successors? Can the Pennsylvanians not have a will executed without an interference of the Assembly? Is there no Orphan's Court, and a judge for the same in Pennsylvania? As it at present appears to me, the proverb applies, "what is every body's business is no body's;"—none will act,—the orphans may set at home, no body cares for them! Is there no Lutheran Attorney in Pennsylvania who would give advice *gratis*—how the valuable property of Frey can be secured for the purposes specified? Perhaps the Court will have a grand jury charged with an inquiry, and the State's Attorney will *perhaps* assist gratis? A hundred other questions may be asked respecting the will. How old is it? What has been the produce of the property since; but a copy of the will ought to be before me, or a jury. The orphan house could be established in *Middletown* of Pennsylvania. I am not a Pennsylvania Lutheran, but by an orphan house in Pennsylvania, *Franke* may come to help to raise missionaries out of that respectable church as he did in Halle, and they are much wanted in these days of enthusaism and infidelity.

Enquirer.

P. S. No doubt brother Frey has asked of several Lutherans with him now in the realms of bliss—What is become of my orphan house in Pennsylvania? The answer will be, we have never heard any thing of it, but we know that the Lutheran Synods had notice, and they talked about it. E.

We copy the following extract from the Charleston Observer, as expressing our own sentiments precisely on an important subject. We have long wished to impress our students with the importance of finishing the course of studies prescribed in the Seminary. Many of them leave the Institution after two years preparation, and however zealous they may be in the cause of their Master, yet this will not compensate for thorough intellectual training. Besides they loose the advantage of the Lectures on Church Government, Composition and Delivery of Sermons, Pastoral Theology, and several other branches of paramount importance, all of which are taught only in the third year of the course.

"It has been customary in every part of our country, to license students of Theology who have passed hastily through an academic course, and devoted a year or two in preparing for the Ministry. Nor is the time thus spent, always occupied to the best advantage. They have not always had the best instructers, nor the proper facilities for acquiring information. Their plan of study has been very defective, and often has an undue attention been paid to some subjects, while others, far more important, have been entirely neglected. Consequently they commence the arduous labors of the Ministry, illy furnished, and, in most cases, they remain so during life. If, however, they had remained two or three years longer in their preparatory studies, and had enjoyed meanwhile the advantages of able preceptors, together with suitable text books and books of reference, and the society of those who had the same office in prospect, they would have laid a broad and deep foundation for future improvement. And not only would their knowledge have been more extensive, but their judgment would have been more matured, and in every respect they would have been better fitted for the work to which they are called. It has been frequently observed—and facts, we think, sufficiently sustain the position—that in general those Ministers who have entered late in life the vineyard of their master, after a long period of preparation, have usually labored more years and with far greater success than those who have been early inducted into the office. And the reason is obvious—the former have acquired bodily and mental strength; while the latter sink under the effort which they are compelled to make.

From the foregoing rather desultory remarks we would deduce the following inferences:

1. That the students in our Theological Seminaries should feel it their duty and their privilege to pursue a full course of at least three years diligent study.
2. That Presbyteries (Synods) would generally confer a great favor upon applicants for licensure in requiring of them higher qualifications than it is usual to demand.
3. That our churches are standing in their own light, when they solicit candidates for the Ministry to enter upon this important and responsible office without due preparation.
4. That the Infant Theological Seminary established by the Synod, demands the fostering care of our churches—its Library should be well furnished—Professorships should be endowed for the different departments of study—and where they are not filled, they should be filled without delay by our ablest Theologians. And students should be impressed with the importance of the work in which they are about to embark, and made to feel that in the present age of the world more than ordinary qualifications are needed for the honor of religion, and the advancement of the Redeemer's cause.

The Treasurer of the Education Society of the Synod of Md. acknowledges the receipt of $28 37½, from the Ladies' Auxilliary Society of Martinsburg, Va.

Lewis Medtart, *Treasurer.*

Money Received. each $1.50.

For Vol. 1. A. Keller, Lewis Boutzahn, Rev. Dr. Wackersham, Em. Suman.—For Vol. 2. Lewis Rouzany, Levi Rouzany, Rev. A. Reck, J. Young, J. Bentz.

Lutheran Hymn Book.

The subscribers have just published, and now ready for sale, a new edition of the

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